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Senate

CHILD CARE AND DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT OF 2014—Continued

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. PRYOR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, as Members of Congress prepare to head back to their home States, it is important to note that the 113th Congress does not end this week, or for that matter, on November 4. We still have a significant amount of unfinished business that must be resolved before the year's end, and the American people expect and deserve our commitment to getting that work done. I strongly support Majority Leader REID's decision to reconvene the Senate shortly after the elections so that we can complete work on a number of bipartisan bills that can and should be enacted this year. We were sent to the Senate by our constituents to do the work of the American people, and those responsibilities will not diminish after the election—no matter what the results.

When the Senate returns in November, I will continue to urge swift consideration and passage of the USA FREEDOM Act of 2014, S.2685. This is a bipartisan bill that makes important reforms to the government's surveillance authorities, while providing the intelligence community the operational flexibility it needs to keep our country safe. That is why the bill is supported not only by the Director of

National Intelligence and the Attorney General but also by a broad coalition of privacy and civil liberties groups, the technology industry, and Members of Congress from across the political spectrum. There is no excuse for not considering it in November. If Senators want to vote against the bill, they have every right to do so, but the American public deserves to know where we stand on the issue of the bulk collection of innocent Americans' phone records, and the intelligence community deserves some measure of predictability and certainty.

I also hope that the Senate will, without further delay, take up and pass the Justice for All Reauthorization Act, S.822, and the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act of 2013, S. 933. Both of these bills are noncontroversial and were reported with overwhelming support by the Judiciary Committee. The Justice for All Reauthorization Act strengthens the rights of crime victims and improves access to postconviction DNA testing to protect the innocent and improve safety in our communities. It is a common sense bill that improves the justice system for everyone involved. That is why Senator CORNYN and Senator MCCONNELL are both cosponsors of the bill and why it has the support of the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Senator GRASSLEY. Despite this support from the key Republican leadership in the Senate, legislation to reauthorize the Justice for All Act—originally signed into law by President George W. Bush—is being blocked on the Republican side. Such obstructionism is unwarranted, and the Senate should at least be allowed to bring this bill up for a vote.

Republican obstruction of the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant Program Reauthorization Act is similarly unwarranted and must stop. Just this week, we remembered and mourned the senseless killing of 12 people 1 year ago at the Navy Yard, just a few blocks

from the Capitol. Such horrifying acts of violence have become far too common, and each serves as a painful reminder of the perils faced by law enforcement every day. During the brutal firefight at the Navy Yard, a Metropolitan Police Department officer was struck in the chest. His bulletproof vest stopped the bullet. The officer was then able to return fire and take down the gunman, finally bringing an end to the violence.

Members of Congress often speak passionately about the need to stand with law enforcement. It would seem beyond dispute, then, that no officer should have to serve without protective vests. This is why Congress has historically acted in unison to support the Bulletproof Vest Partnership Grant program, which has enabled over 13,000 law enforcement agencies to purchase over 1 million vests. Protective vests are credited with saving the lives of more than 3,000 law enforcement officers since 1987. Today, every Democratic Senator stands ready to reauthorize this lifesaving program. Yet a few Senate Republicans are blocking it. It is past time for our actions to match our rhetoric. If Republicans claim to stand with law enforcement, then surely they should stand with them when it matters most. I urge all Senators to help pass this bill as soon as we return.

There are several additional priorities of law enforcement that have bipartisan support and should receive consideration in the remaining weeks of the year. This morning, the Senate Judiciary Committee favorably reported the Second Chance Reauthorization Act. I thank the broad bipartisan list of cosponsors for working with me to reduce recidivism and make our communities safer with this legislation. Communities of faith are calling on the Senate to move forward and pass this important bill and I hope we will hear their call.

This Congress we also have an opportunity to reduce dangerous prison overcrowding while actually improving

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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